

XXII. *Notes on the early stages of Scolitantides orion, Pall.*
By T. A. CHAPMAN, M.D.

[Read October 6th, 1915.]

PLATES CIV-CXVII.

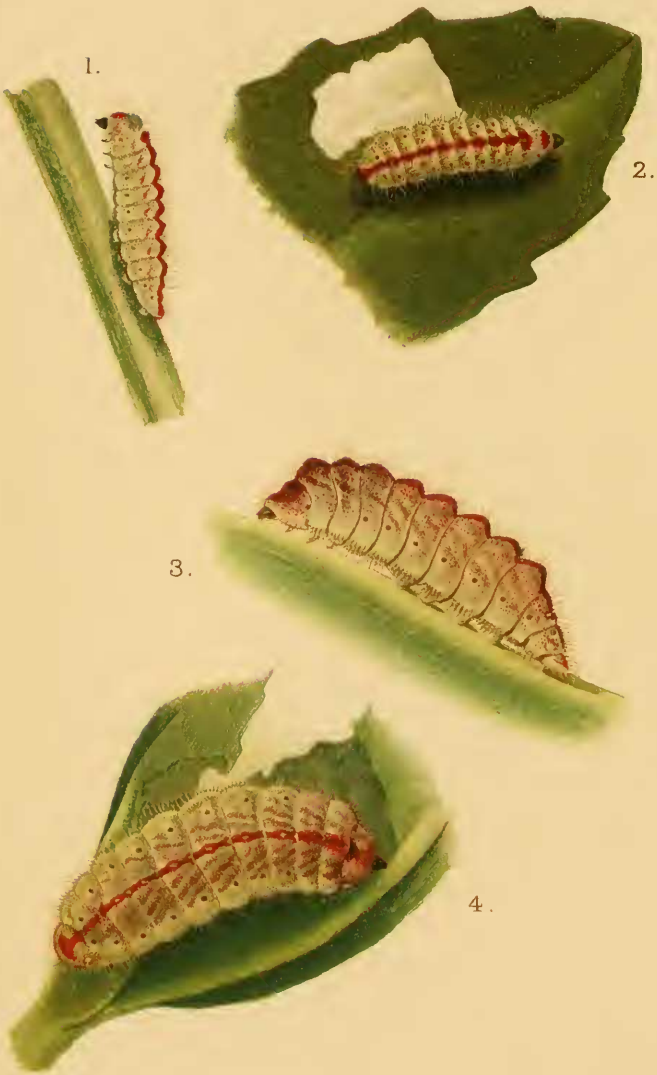
THE full-grown larva of *Scolitantides orion* is very well known and has been figured, but not altogether satisfactorily. Most of the other details here reported are more or less still undescribed.

The butterfly lays her eggs freely in captivity on various Sedums, *telephium* perhaps for choice.

The egg is of ordinary Lycaenid shape, flat on top with rounded sides, in short, cheese-shaped, 0.65 mm. wide and just half that height, viz. 0.325 mm.; the rounding of the sides reduces the flat top to 0.45 mm. across. The network has little or no knobbing at the junctions of the lines, the special peculiarity of the egg is that the meshes of the network are, on top, radially long, very narrow across, and on the sides of very similar form, but the long axis is horizontal. The result of this sudden change of form of the cells at the margin of the top is to give the appearance of a raised border or crown, which is not strictly the fact.

The larva as soon as hatched burrows into the substance of the leaf, which is thick and succulent, generally just under the cuticle, but sometimes deeper. The larvae are practically colourless and take the colour of their food, so that it requires a very careful search to detect them. On one occasion I had some eggs sent me and received the empty shells, but believed the larvae had died or otherwise been lost. Luckily I kept the plant, and after a time the larvae were accounted for.

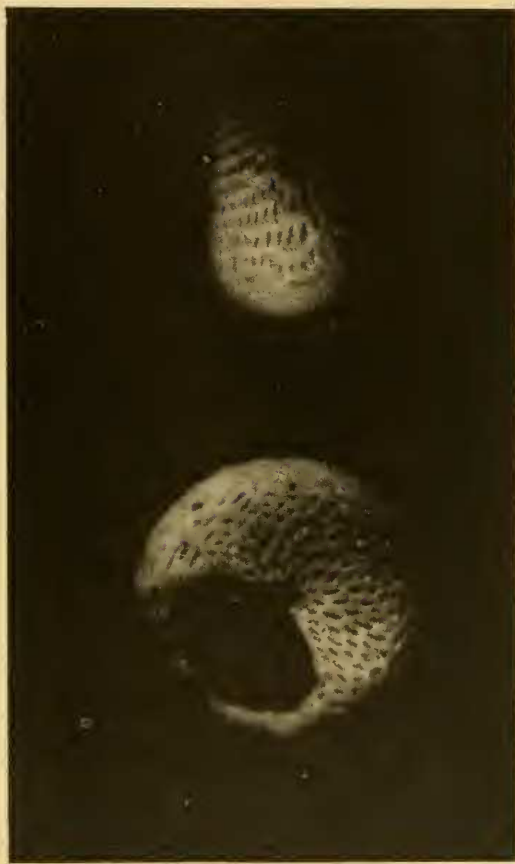
Scolitantides orion, newly hatched May 26th, 1912, is about 1.2 mm. long, slaty grey or nearly colourless, with conspicuous black spiracles and black bases to trapezoidal hairs; hairs I are dark, the rest nearly colourless. As it grows it acquires a reddish-brown dorsal band, and when full-fed in this skin shows some dark markings on "slope." When waiting for moult the dorsal band is triangular on each segment, narrow at front of segment, wide behind;



E.C. Knight, del et pinx.

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LARVAE OF SCOLITANTIDES ORION.



Photo, F. N. Clark.

Anglo-Engraving Co., Ltd.

S. ORION, EGGSHELLS × 60.